Diederichs describes a method for manufacturing plate-packs of coated metal laminas for electrical machinery. At intervals on the perimeter of laminas 1, 2 there are punched or stamped tongues 11, 12 and 21, 22 respectively, which define projections or depressions to assemble the laminas according to the punch-packing process. More specifically, long sides of tongues 11, 12 and 21, 22 are stamped free, while a narrow front end of each tongue is integrally connected with laminas 1 and 2, respectively. Tongues 11, 12 and 21, 22 are pressed out in the areas that are stamped free between the front ends, such that tapered axial projections are formed. To ensure a minimum interval is maintained, tabs 13-17 and 23-27 are configured as distance stops on the perimeter of each respective laminas 1 and 2, such that their inner edges are connected radially with each respective lamina 1 and 2, and their outer edges are stamped free and bent out axially.

Claim 8 recites an electric motor comprising "a housing...a stator comprising a stator core, said stator at least partially within said housing, said stator core comprising a plurality of generally planar laminas, each lamina having an axis, each said lamina comprising a plurality of notches and a plurality of interlock tabs, the notches extending outward from the interlock tabs to an outside diameter of said laminas...a rotor having a rotor core and disposed at least partially within said stator."

Diederichs does not describe nor suggest an electric motor including a housing, a stator including a stator core, wherein the stator is at least partially within the housing, and the stator core includes a plurality of generally planar laminas, wherein each lamina has an axis, and includes a plurality of notches and a plurality of interlock tabs, the notches extending outward from the interlock tabs to an outside diameter of the laminas, in combination with a rotor having a rotor core and disposed at least partially within the stator. Moreover, Diederichs does not describe nor suggest a plurality of generally planar laminas, wherein each lamina has an axis and includes a plurality of notches and a plurality of interlock tabs, the notches extending outward from the interlock tabs to an outside diameter of the laminas. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Diederichs describes laminas that are punched or stamped with tongues in order to form projections or depressions used to

assemble the laminas according to the punch-packing process. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 8 is submitted to be patentable over Diederichs.

Claims 9-13 depend either, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 9-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 9-13 likewise are patentable over Diederichs.

Claim 14 recites an electric motor comprising "a housing...a stator comprising a stator core, said stator at least partially within said housing, said stator core comprising a plurality of generally planar laminas, each lamina having an axis, each said lamina comprising a plurality of interlock tabs, the plurality of interlock tabs extending outward to an outside diameter of said laminas...a rotor having a rotor core and disposed at least partially within said stator."

Diederichs does not describe nor suggest an electric motor including a housing, a stator including a stator core wherein the stator is at least partially within the housing and the stator core includes a plurality of generally planar laminas wherein each lamina has an axis and includes a plurality of interlock tabs that extend outward to an outside diameter of the laminas, in combination with a rotor having a rotor core, and disposed at least partially within the stator. Moreover, Diederichs does not describe nor suggest a plurality of generally planar laminas wherein each lamina has an axis and includes a plurality of interlock tabs that extend outward to an outside diameter of the laminas. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Diederichs describes laminas that are punched or stamped with tongues in order to form projections or depressions used to assemble the laminas according to the punch-packing process. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Diederichs.

Claim 15 recites a stator core comprising "a plurality of generally planar laminas, each said lamina having a plurality of notches with a first axis of symmetry and a plurality of interlock tabs with a second axis of symmetry, the notches extending from the interlock tabs to an outside diameter of said laminas."

Diederichs does not describe nor suggest a stator core including a plurality of generally planar laminas wherein each lamina has a plurality of notches with a first axis of symmetry and a plurality of interlock tabs with a second axis of symmetry wherein the notches extend from the interlock tabs to an outside diameter of the laminas. Moreover, Diederichs does not describe nor suggest a plurality of notches with a first axis of symmetry and a plurality of interlock tabs with a second axis of symmetry wherein the notches extend from the interlock tabs to an outside diameter of the laminas. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Diederichs describes laminas that are punched or stamped with tongues in order to form projections or depressions to assemble the laminas according to the punch-packing process. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Diederichs.

Claims 16-20 depend directly from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 16-20, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 15 likewise is patentable over Diederichs.

Claim 21 recites a stator core comprising "a plurality of generally planar laminas, each said lamina having a plurality of interlock tabs with an axis of symmetry, the interlock tabs extending to an outside diameter of said laminas."

Diederichs does not describe nor suggest a stator core including a plurality of generally planar laminas wherein each lamina has a plurality of interlock tabs with an axis of symmetry that extend to an outside diameter of the laminas. Moreover, Diederichs does not describe nor suggest lamina having a plurality of interlock tabs with an axis of symmetry that extend to an outside diameter of the lamina. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Diederichs describes laminas that are punched or stamped with tongues in order to form projections or depressions used to assemble the laminas according to the punch-packing process. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Diederichs.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 8-21 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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